



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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**ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER**

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**Memorandum**

Date: February 1, 2010

To: Rep. Claire Janowski, Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee Co-Chair  
Sen. Martin Looney, Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee Co-Chair

From: Rep. Ed Jutila, 37th District

Re: Nomination of Robert T. Ross of Salem as  
Executive Director of the Office of Military Affairs

As you know, last July Governor Rell announced that she had nominated Robert T. Ross, First Selectman of Salem, to be the state's next Executive Director of the Office of Military Affairs. Since that time, Bob has been doing a terrific job as the acting Director pending his confirmation.

I have personally had the pleasure of working with Bob in his former capacity as First Selectman of Salem, and getting to know him as a person over the past few years. I enthusiastically endorse this nomination and ask for a swift and timely confirmation.

As you can see from his extensive military background with the Navy, he has all the necessary qualifications and background for the job. Having been first selectman of Salem, he also has a tremendous appreciation for the impact of the Sub Base on our Connecticut families and community.

As you know the Office of Military Affairs was created in 2007 to coordinate efforts to prevent the closure or downsizing of the U.S. Navy Submarine Base in Groton and to serve as liaison to the Connecticut congressional delegation on defense and military issues. The Executive Director of the Office of Military Affairs is responsible for coordinating state-wide efforts to promote defense-related industries in Connecticut, lead efforts to protect those industries, and advocate for programs to improve the quality of life for service members and their families who reside in Connecticut. Given the location of the Sub Base and other institutions such as Electric Boat in southeastern Connecticut, this office is critical not just to southeastern CT, but our entire state.

As a retired U.S. Navy officer, Public Affairs Officer for Navy Region Northeast, and Director of Public Affairs for the United States Sixth Fleet, Bob has had extensive and unparalleled experience as a spokesman on defense issues, and brings over 25 years of professional public service and military experience to the Office of Military Affairs. He also is a graduate of Bethany College in Bethany, Oklahoma and has a master's degree in security and strategy from the U.S. Naval Command & Staff College and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Connecticut. Governor Rell could not have selected a more qualified individual for this position than Bob Ross.

Thank you for your consideration of Bob Ross for this critical position, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding his nomination or his qualifications.

EJ/jsk